

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05758

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, GV
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ICRC TO REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 577

1. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION TODAY ICRC DELEGATE FOR AFRICA FRANK SCHMIDT TOLD MISOFF THAT FOLLOW-UP LETTERS TO SEKOU TOURE AND BEAVOGUI REFERRED PARA 6, REFTEL, AND MENTIONING POSSIBILITIES OF GOG ADHERENCE TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF GUINEAN RED CROSS, AND POSSIBILITY OF ENHANCING GOG'S HUMANITARIAN IMAGE THROUGH ICRC VISITS TO PRISONS, WERE TRANSMITTED APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AGO THROUGH SWISS CHARGE. ICRC CONSIDERED BALL NOW IN TOURE'S COURT AND IS AWAITING HIS RESPONSE, WHICH THEY FEEL MAY BE SOME TIME IN COMING. ICRC PLANS NO FURTHER INITIATIVES OF ITS OWN FOR THE MOMENT.

2. AS CONCERNS THE THREE AREAS OF ICRC'S INTEREST, SCHMIDT FEELS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOG ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTIONS IS GOOD, BUT THAT ITS ESTABLISHMENT OF A RED CROSS
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SOCIETY IS LESS SO. HE CITED THE OBSERVATION OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH A SOCIETY WOULD BE IN COMPETITION WITH EXISTING STATE AND PARTY STRUCTURES.

3. SCHMIDT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE REGRET THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, AND FELT THAT TOURE'S TOTAL DOMINANCE OF ESPE-

CIALLY THEIR FIRST MEETING, ATTENDED BY BEAVOGUI, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BEAVOGUI'S FAILURE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO SCHMIDT'S REQUEST FOR A SESSION TOGETHER. IN GENERAL, SCHMIDT EXPRESSED THE THOUGHT THAT MOST OF THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED THERE WAS LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE POINT IN MEETING WITH HIM SINCE DECISIONS IN REGARD TO THE ICRC'S AREAS OF INTEREST RESTED ULTIMATELY WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. SCHMIDT EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR HIS VISITS WITH AMBASSADOR CROSBY AND DCM MAINLAND, AND IN PARTICULAR HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THEM WHICH WAS INVALUABLE IN SETTING THE TONE FOR HIS SESSIONS WITH TOURE AND OTHER GUINEAN OFFICIALS.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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